



The Marker Lamp



Volume 50

Number 3

Summer 2004



If you missed Houston you missed the show!

**Make Plans
to attend the
Lone Star Region
Convention
in
Fort Worth
Next June!**

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The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of The
National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 50, Number 3

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, whenever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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2003 Submission Deadlines & Advertising Closing Dates

Winter Issue.....January 15
Spring Issue April 15
Summer Issue.....July 15
Fall Issue.....October 15

Mailing Date:

Approx. 30 Days After Deadline.
Materials received after the deadline will be held for the next issue unless the author requests otherwise.

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The Marker Lamp



President's Message

by Jim Packer, MMR

Summer in Texas has taken on a whole new meaning this year. Usually we look to the model room as an escape from the heat. This year's rains have given yet another excuse for working on the layout. I hope you can find the time for a little railroading along with all of the other demands of the summer season. I have been considering building an ark for my next project.

We have just finished an exciting month of conventions, with a great LSR trip to Houston in June, followed by 10 days in the Seattle area for the NMRA Board of Trustees' meeting and the National Convention and Train Show. I hope you were able to attend one or both. The LSR convention each June is a time to renew friendships and to renew enthusiasm for modeling. I hope you will start now to make plans to attend next year's convention in Fort Worth.

In addition to the returning incumbent members of the board, I would like to welcome new members Jack Green, Director for Division 2 and Doyle Bond, Director for Division 6. There have also been some changes to the Department Chairs. Paul Richardson, past Membership Chair, has asked to be replaced in that position since his work is going to be taking him out of the area for much of the next year and a half. Charlie Kirk has volunteered to take over that job. John Hawkins stepped forward to say that he would be happy to take over the Education Chair, relieving Elbert Smith, LSR Secretary/Treasurer from that additional duty, and he was appointed to that position.

I addressed an issue at the convention banquet that I want to repeat for the sake of those members who weren't there. Some comments were made by a few members who model in N-scale that the NMRA and the LSR were not favorable toward their scale. Nothing could be further from the truth. They declared that N-scalers would not support the convention and would not attend. It is unfortunate to hear such threats, when the real losers could only be the persons who stayed away. Those who were there had a good time, and those who may have stayed away to prove some point missed out. All scales were represented, and I didn't see anyone walking around with a scarlet letter "N" around their neck.

The NMRA organization is open to and supports all scales. Standards for manufacturers are adopted for all scales. All scales are represented on layout tours. Clinics are presented without restriction. The fact is, we are an organization of people who love trains and love to build models. Nothing in that statement says anything about 1:220, 1:160, 1:87, 1:64, 1:48, 1:22.3, 1:20:5, or any other set of numbers. There were layouts of nearly every scale on this year's tours in Houston and Seattle.

For statistical purposes, members are asked to list their scale or scales on their membership applications. As of May 31, the numbers were as follows:

HO - 69.4%	N - 14.2%
O - 8.5%	Large scale- 4.2%
S - 2.3%	Z - 0.65%
Other - 0.75%	

It should come as no surprise that the greatest percentage of members model in HO. While modeling techniques work equally well for all scales, many articles in *Scale Rails* or *The Marker Lamp* talk about HO. The reason for this should be obvious. Both publications print articles submitted by volunteers. If there are more HO modelers, it would seem likely that more articles submitted would have been written by HO modelers. If a modeler in any other scale feels that there is too much written about other scales and not enough written about theirs, perhaps they need to write something and submit it themselves. It can't be printed if it hasn't been written.

I hope we can put to rest this concept of "Us vs. Them" and recognize the fact that we are all members with the same basic interests. If we work together, rather than pulling in separate directions, we will become a stronger organization, dedicated not to the preservation of Z, N, HO, S, O, G, live steam, or any other scale, but to the common goal of building models and having fun. Isn't that what this is really all about?

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

For those of you that didn't make the LSR convention in Houston you missed one of the great ones. Don and Loren put on an excellent convention. The clinics were great, hard to figure your time and see all the ones you wanted. I was told by many that I missed one of the highlights of the convention, the Ladies Fashion Show. I understand they had quite a crowd and not just the ladies; there were just as many men there which proves that railroading is not the only thing we think about.

As most of you know I am a Narrow Gauge, and since Charlie Getz, our guest speaker, is one also we tried to plan a day of layout tours for him. I called Craig Brantley to see if he could plan Saturday to see as many Narrow Gauge layouts in the time allowed and work in a stop at the GATS show, a request by Charlie. Well Craig worked out a great schedule; we left the hotel in a 3 vehicle caravan at 7am and saw 7 layouts in 5 scales plus the GATS show in 10 hours and 240 miles. Craig knows how to plan and we stayed on schedule all day, who said Houston traffic is a problem.

I was open before and after the convention and would like to thank all those who came by. For those of you that came by you saw a work in progress and a very understanding wife who let me stop on her kitchen remodeling to work on my railroad so that I would have something ready and running. After the Narrow Gauge convention in September it will be back to finishing that last set of drawers and building the doors for the kitchen cabinets.

One of the highlights of the convention for me came on Sunday. David Davis had asked me for some plans at last years convention saying he wanted to build a car in On3 for the contest. I rounded up a set of plans and gave him a set of trucks. Well, he did build a car, and what a car he built. His car not only took First Place in Freight Cars, it also took Best In Show! On Sunday he came by the house to see if it would run, which it did, and said it was built for me. I told him he needed to keep it but he insisted so now I am the proud keeper of the car, but it will always be David's.

Summary of Actions Taken by LSR Board Houston, TX, June 13, 2004

Following is a summary of various proposals and Board actions. The meeting minutes are more complete.

Report on Election of Officers – Overall, 40.3% of the ballots were returned.

At Large Directors – Bob Bray, Bill Dryden and Loren Neufeld

Division 2 Director – Jack Green

Division 4 Director – Bob Alston

Division 6 Director – Doyle Bond

Division 8 Director – Jim Long

Budget for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2005 – The budget proposed and accepted for fiscal year 2004-2005 was based on the income and disbursements for fiscal year 2003-2004.

Sites of Future Conventions - Division 6 Director Doyle Bond confirmed that Division 6 accepts responsibility for the 2006 LSR convention in San Antonio. The sequence of LSR convention cities shall be Houston, DFW, San Antonio and a fourth city. The fourth city is not specified, but will be and chosen as appropriate.

Convention Rebate for Next Convention – The 2005 “Convention Rebate” (applied to overall convention expenses) shall be set at \$3.00 per convention registrant. See description of “rebate” in the complete minutes of the meeting.

Convention City Surcharge – The Board approved the application of a surcharge charged to LSR convention registrants who do not stay in their own home or in the convention hotel. The specific requirements of the surcharge will be set at the discretion of each year’s convention committee.

Commemorative Item for Sale at the 2005 Convention – The commemorative item for the 2005 LSR Convention will be a commemorative decal with the subject of the decal and the scale(s) represented to be determined later.

Length of Term of Directors and Directors at Large – A proposal was submitted to revise the term of Division Directors from 2 years to 3 years. After discussion, the proposal was withdrawn.

Addition of Division Superintendent – A proposal was submitted to create the office of Superintendent in each division, to be filled by election by the division members. After discussion, the proposal was withdrawn.

Restrict Candidates to Run for One Office Only – The following constitutional amendment will be placed on the ballot next spring:

“ARTICLE IV – Organization, Sec. 2”

“No member’s name may be placed on the ballot for more than one position as a Regional Officer or Director, with the exception that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined, if the candidate is willing to occupy both positions.”

Addition of Education Chair & Position – The NMRA requires an Education Chair for each region. The following Constitutional amendment will be placed on the ballot next spring:

“4. **Education.** Duties are:

- a) To serve as a liaison between the Lone Star Region and the NMRA, to include transmitting information to National and transmitting information to all members in the region, including, but not limited to, writing a column “Education News” in the Marker Lamp.
- b) To provide the NMRA Education Director with a statistical report twice a year (January and June), to include, but not limited to, number of division clinics held in the LSR; number of division contests with total number of entries; name and number of any youth activities held; name and number of any other NMRA education programs held.
- c) Provide the NMRA education Clinics Chair with a list of subject titles, clinician names, and dates held at the LSR annual convention.”

Addition of Web Page Chair & Position – This proposed Constitutional amendment will be placed on the ballot next spring. “**Web Page.** Duties of this committee would be to maintain the Lone Star Region web site, updating it as necessary, and inserting pages of importance to the members of the LSR, as submitted by LSR officers, Directors, Department Chairs, and/or committee members. The Web Page Chair will insure that all material inserted on the LSR pages are appropriate and represent the highest standards of suitability.”

Proposal to Include Marker Lamp on LSR Web Page – The following constitutional amendment (shown in Italics) will be submitted to the general membership next spring:

“ARTICLE IV – Committees, 1.a)

- a) Publication of the Marker Lamp, the official publication of the Lone Star Region, on a quarterly basis. *A complete copy of each issue will be forwarded to the Web Page Chair in a form suitable for inclusion on the Lone Star Region’s official web page when it is ready for the printer.”*

Proposal to Provide Member Directory – LSR officers received a request to provide a directory of LSR members. Pros and cons were discussed. No motions were proposed and no action was taken.

Mid-Year Board Meeting - The mid-year Board meeting will be held in Fort Worth on January 15, 2005.

*The full minutes of the
Lone Star Region Board Meeting
can be found starting on page 6*

TOOLS NOT OF THE TRADE

By MMR Tracy Mitchell and MMR Terry Mitchell

First off, a big “Thank You” for ya’ll that came to the Gulf Coast Express Convention here in Houston. It was a pleasant surprise that Terry got to come down too. For those of you that saw the Plastic Clinic we gave, you had a real treat in seeing both of us give the clinic. It has been a few years since we did one together and it was real fun for us. As those of you who saw it could testify, we didn’t rehearse it and it came off that way, but that was the charm of giving it. It was great seeing old friends and meeting a few new ones too.

I want to publically thank all those that lent a hand in the contest room. Although quantity was down, the quality of the models seemed as good as ever. There were some very good models in there and the judges had some very hard decisions to make. It seems like some of you have been applying what you have been reading in our column. So with that let’s start with some more ways to improve your modeling ...

In this installment, we are going to describe tools that we use in modeling that we call “special tools.” These are tools that we use to make things easier to model. Some of these are homemade while others are items that you don’t think of using in model railroading. With that let’s get to it.

The Punch: Punches are made from pieces of wood for a handle and then nails, thumbtacks and straight pins pushed into the wood. These are used for nail holes, applying glue, marking measurements, and basically anything that we could use an X-Acto for but don’t want to break the tip of the blade off.

Sanding Block: We take emory cloth, not sand paper and staple it to a block of scrap wood. We usually use a 1x2 but we have used 2x4’s as well. This is a great tool for sanding large areas and for keeping the work square.

Sponge: This really isn’t a tool, but is used as a preventative measure, namely keeping bottles of paint or solvents from spilling. Take a cellulose sponge you buy at the grocers, trace an outline of a bottle of paint, glue, solvent, etc. on the sponge. Cut a hole out of the sponge. Make sure you cut on the inside of the tracing line. Push the bottle into the sponge. There you have a broad base that will help reduce spills.

Rust Dust: Take steel wool, (doesn’t matter the coarseness), and soak it in salt water or vinegar. Set it in the hot TX sun and wait for the wool to rust. After a few days in the sun, you can crumble the steel wool into fine dust. Running it through a dry strainer helps. Take the big chunks and throw them back into the salt water slurry until done. When you are through you now have a great powder to use as a rust chalk. Apply it like you would chalk, and it can be fixed to the model with Dullcote.

Sandpaper/Glass: Duct tape a piece of sandpaper to a pane of glass and you have a level sanding block. This works

great for sanding the backs of paper signs.

Decal Applicator: We take a paint brush and run the handle through a pencil sharpener to get a fine point. This works great to move a decal into position without tearing the decal. Also, the brush end is great for lapping up the excess water and decal solution.

Yogurt Cup Holder: A Yoplait brand yogurt container is a great tool holder. Its wide base and narrow top makes it harder to tip over than a conventional cup. We store X-Actos, dental picks, paint brushes, and pencils in ours.

Kitchen Cutting Board: We use the white-colored self healing kind. They are much less expensive than the green mats found at Micro Mark and hobby stores.

Emory Boards: Emory boards have been used for years as a sanding tool. We like to modify them by cutting them thinner with a pair of scissors. These work great for those hard to reach areas.

Binoculars: Yes, Binoculars. This tip was given to us by a good friend and great modeler, Byron Spampinato. Set your model up on a table or whatever you got that is level on your driveway. Then this is where you get the strange looks from your neighbors. Walk across the street and look at your model through the binoculars. If the model looks real in the binoculars then it looks real like to the naked eye. The first time he told us this we nearly cracked up but after doing it, believe us IT DOES WORK!

Next time, we’ll get more involved with a common household item that is the tool we used the most. The clothespin.

Back to Modeling now.
TNT



Minutes of Board Meeting Lone Star Region – NMRA

Houston, Texas, June 13, 2004

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Packer at 9:50 AM.

ROLL CALL

All Officers, Directors and Department Chairmen were present except At-Large Director Bill Dryden (personal business), Parliamentarian Ed McCamey, Publications Chair Chuck Lind (hosting layout tour), and Youth Chair Bob Standley.

Call for Proxies – At-Large Director Bill Dryden appointed At-Large Director Bob Bray as his proxy.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Board Meeting held June 15, 2003 were distributed to those present. Moved by Bob Bray and seconded by Jerry Schoenberg to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as presented and as printed in the Summer 2003 edition of the Marker Lamp. The motion passed.

REPORTS

President and Trustee Jim Packer submitted a written report noting the reprinting of the Fall 2003 Marker Lamp, the mailing of the ML to all NMRA members and the upcoming notification of voting results for the NMRA “Long Range Plan”.

Secretary/Treasurer Elbert Smith submitted written reports regarding membership levels, and LSR treasury receipts and disbursements.

Achievement Chair Al Boos submitted a written report. He also asked to be informed about members who wish achievement awards submissions and members qualified to judge such submissions. Having this information on hand expedites the achievement program.

Contest Chair Loren Neufeld reported an encouraging level of participation in this year’s convention contests. Award plaque designs were changed this year and the designs were received well. The same designs will be used next year.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson submitted a written report noting the results of the 2003 convention, the upcoming 2005 convention in Fort Worth and the 2006 convention site of San Antonio. There has been a proposal to hold an LSR convention in Bryan-College Station in conjunction with activities at the George Bush Presidential Library.

Dispatcher Eunice Linda submitted a written report for the fiscal year 2003–2004. Just 76 of the older cars were sold from inventory and total inventory has increased by 21 cars. Eunice thanked Ben Pearlman for taking on consignment the cars brought to the convention, but not sold.

Education Chair Elbert Smith reported that no work had been done.

Events Coordinator John Hawkins requested everyone’s assistance to keep him informed of upcoming events.

Historian Jim Long’s written report noted that there were no new MMR’s in the LSR this past year.

Membership Chair Paul Richardson is distributing a number of 25-year and 50-year membership certificates that were found misplaced elsewhere.

Nominating Chair John Linda submitted a written report noting the results of this year’s election:

At Large Directors – Bob Bray, Bill Dryden and Loren Neufeld

Division 2 Director – Jack Green

Division 4 Director – Bob Alston

Division 6 Director – Doyle Bond

Division 8 Director – Jim Long

Overall, 40.3% of the ballots were returned.

Photography Chair Mark Schroeder reported that Doug Jackson has photos of this year’s contest winners.

Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag noted that a Non-Rail Chair is needed for the next year.

Web Page Chair Duane Richardson reported that now, after initial setup, yearly cost should be approximately \$50.00. He requested material for inclusion in the LSR web site.

DIVISION REPORTS

Div. 1 Dir. Jim Howard submitted a written report highlighting Div. 1 activities, the publication of the “Cowcatcher Roundup” newsletter, participation in co-op type operating events and the promotion of LSR membership at the “Holiday Train Show” in Fort Worth.

Div. 2 Dir. Marvin Ackermann submitted a written report noting that the 1998 LSR cars that were taken on consignment had been sold and that Div. 2 had assisted with “Christmas on the Crescent Lines” and a Louisiana Rail Run.

Div. 3 Dir. Bill McPherson submitted a written report highlighting the Div. 3 mini-convention in April and the clinics presented there.

Div. 4 Dir. Bob Alston reported that a division meeting was held in November, Div.4 maintains a presence at local train shows and that fellowship within the division is increasing.

Div. 5 Dir. Ron Kutch reported some difficulty obtaining a list of Div. 5 LSR members and requested assistance in getting such a list.

Div. 6 Dir. Fred Bock stated that his report had been printed in the latest Marker Lamp.

Div. 7 Dir. Don Kimmell reported that there had been three telephone conferences within the division, that there is limited interest in holding division meets, but there have been weekly meetings between a few LR members.

Div. 8 Dir. Jim Long submitted a written report noting the extensive effort in staging this year’s LSR convention.

Director At Large Bob Bray submitted a written report noting efforts to encourage LSR members to become active, and promotion of the NMRA and LSR within the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs.

OLD BUSINESS

Cars Ordered for 2004 Convention

Eunice Linda reported that 100 HO scale cars had been ordered for the 2004 convention, that 47 cars had been sold and that 24 cars will be placed on consignment with Papa Ben’s Train Place. The remaining year-2004 cars have been priced at \$14.00 each.

Alternate Methods for Sales of LSR Commemorative Cars

A proposal was made at a prior Board meeting to sell LSR cars through eBay. During a general discussion about possible procedures, it was suggested that someone could act as the LSR contact with eBay and notify Eunice Linda about shipping instructions. Eunice Linda said that she could ship cars within 6 hours of receiving an e-mail notification. It was pointed out that if we use eBay, we must be responsive to purchasers. A show of hands indicated that a majority was in favor of pursuing the use of eBay.

Moved by Paul Richardson, seconded by Jim Long that LSR commemorative cars be sold on eBay providing a suitable volunteer can be found to handle the eBay transactions. Eunice Linda to be the shipper. Motion carried by voice vote.

Further to the subject, a suggestion was made to sell cars in blocks and to bundle sales so that orders do not “dribble in”. That way, shipping can be done several days apart.

It was noted that the Board previously established that the price of three-year-old cars could be reduced to \$7.00 for HO scale cars, and to \$10.00 for N scale cars at the discretion of Dispatcher Eunice Linda.

Discussion ensued about sending cars to the NMRA National Convention for sale at the NMRA Company Store. Jim Long noted that it had been done in the past with disappointing results. Eunice Linda, as Dispatcher, and Ben Pearlman, who heads the NMRA Company Store will decide how many of which cars will be sent. The commission paid for sales at the NMRA Company Store is 10%.

Status of 50th Anniversary Commemorative Pin

The commemorative pins produced for the 50th anniversary convention held in 2001 were faulty and were remanufactured. The intent was to mail the new pins out to members. Various delays and unavoidable situations prevented this. Mailing costs would be approximately \$150.00.

Moved by Jim Long, seconded by Bob Alston, that the 50th anniversary pins be sent to next year's Fort Worth convention and to following conventions for distribution to attendees. Amendment moved by Paul Richardson, seconded by Fred Brok that the 50th anniversary pins be offered to members through notices in the in Marker Lamp and on the LSR web site. Amendment to motion passed 7/6. The amended motion failed – 6 yes votes – 7 no votes.

Moved by Loren Neufeld, seconded by Bob Bray, that the 50th anniversary pins be taken to future conventions and distributed to LSR members through registration packets or other means. Motion was passed.

Convention 2003 Final Report

No written report. Moneys have been paid into the treasury and a report has been sent to Convention Chair Bill McPherson.

Re-Affirm Board Votes Conducted by Mail/E-mail

Prior to this board meeting, the following actions were confirmed by the LSR Board through USPS mail and/or e-mail votes.

- 1) Appoint Elbert Smith as Secretary/Treasurer upon the resignation of Robert Muse.
- 2) Reprint the Fall 2003 Marker Lamp after the first printing was lost by the Postal Service.
- 3) Mail the Winter 2004 Marker Lamp to all NMRA members living in the Lone Star Region.

Moved by Jim Howard, seconded by Jim Long that the Board affirms the actions noted above. Motion was passed.

Status of Pop Loffler Award

A question had been raised about the status of the Pop Loffler award. Jim Packer was told that there had been a problem finding an engraver that could do a quality job of engraving names on the side of the curved bowl. It was said that there was space for seven more names on the bowl. Jim Packer pointed out that this award is the province of the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club, that the LSR does not participate in this award and that this discussion was a status update only.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Newly Elected Officers and Directors

These included new board members Jack Green, Bob Alston, Doyle Bond and Elbert Smith as noted above.

Introduction of New Department Chairs

Jim Packer explained the NMRA requirement for each region to appoint an Education Chair.

Budget for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2005

Secretary/Treasurer, Elbert Smith presented a proposed budget for fiscal year 2004-2005. The proposed budget was based on the income and disbursements for fiscal year 2003-2004.

Moved by Doyle Bond, seconded by Jerry Schoenberg to accept the fiscal year 2004-2005 Budget as submitted. The motion Passed. Evaluation of Financial Health of LSR

As shown in the Secretary/Treasurer's report, the Net Worth of the Lone Star Region has been steady over the last four years, remaining between \$36,500 and \$38,800. It was suggested that, in the Marker

Lamp, the Secretary/Treasurer should explain the various LSR funds and how they are used by the LSR.

LSR Yearly Conventions

Houston 2004 – Convention Chair Don Bozman, reported that the 2004 convention auctions generated \$2752.00 in sales and that the LSR share of that amount will be \$137.00. He indicated that the total number of registrants was approximately 231 and that several out-of-region registrants attended. Don warned that hotel and convention space is becoming more expensive. There had been some concern that the 2004 convention would have to be held some distance outside Houston to obtain favorable hotel rates.

Sites of Future Conventions – Convention Chair, Bill McPherson, described a proposal to hold an LSR convention in the Bryan-College Station area. The convention would be held while there is a standing model railroad exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library from June 2005 to July 2006. There was concern that there are few LSR members in the Bryan/College Station area to handle and oversee convention preparations. The consensus of the Board was to decline the Bryan-College Station proposal.

Next year's LSR convention in Fort Worth was noted and this led to a review of the desired sequence of convention cities. As passed at the Board meeting on June 15, 2003, the 2006 convention is scheduled for San Antonio. Division 6 Director, Doyle Bond, confirmed that Division 6 accepts responsibility for the 2006 LSR convention in San Antonio.

There was further discussion about the motion on convention city rotation that was passed at the June 15, 2003 Board meeting and its language, "Houston, DFW area, San Antonio and an optional City." It was emphasized that the fourth city is not optional. There must be a fourth city.

Moved by Loren Neufeld, seconded by Doyle Bond that the sequence of LSR convention cities shall be Houston, DFW, San Antonio and a fourth city. The fourth city is not specified, but will be chosen as appropriate. Motion passed.

Convention Rebate for Next Convention – It was estimated that, after completion of 2004 Convention accounting, there would be approximately \$400.00 remaining in the Convention Rebate fund. This fund was established after the "breakfast rebate" was received from the 2001-convention hotel. This fund has been used to offset the expense of subsequent conventions and thereby reduce the registration cost to participants. Moved by Jim Long to remit the remaining amount of Convention Rebate to the 2005 Convention committee. There was no second to this motion. The motion died.

Further discussion suggested that a rebate of \$3.00 per registrant at the 2005 Convention would effectively deplete the Convention Rebate fund and that the LSR treasury was sufficient to cover any amount in excess of the remaining Convention Rebate. Moved by Paul Richardson, seconded by Bob Alston that the 2005 Convention Rebate shall be set at \$3.00 per convention registrant. The motion passed.

Convention City Surcharge – Discussion began about the Registration Surcharge used at the 2004 Convention. This surcharge was applied to overnight registrants who did not stay at their own home or at the convention hotel. Don Bozman reported that there had been some initial resistance to this surcharge, but that most people accepted the need for the surcharge and that few registrants were affected.

Moved by Paul Richardson, seconded by Doyle Bond that the Board approve the application of a surcharge charged to LSR convention registrants who do not stay in their own home or in the convention hotel. It is further moved that the specific requirements of the surcharge will be set at the discretion of each year's convention committee. The motion was passed.

Future Car Sales – Discussion opened about the desirability of an LSR car or other commemorative item for sale at the 2005 convention. Alternative suggestions included the following: providing a decal instead of a car; providing a multiple-scale decal; providing a decal and an undecorated car; and tabling the subject until the mid-year meeting. It was pointed out that manufacturing lead-time for a decal is very short as compared to manufacturing lead-time for a car. Determining the order quantity for a decal could be delayed until after the convention pre-registration response indicates how many decals may be needed. Also, the cost for a quantity of decals is less than for cars.

Moved by Loren Neufeld, seconded by Jim Long that the commemorative item for the 2005 LSR Convention will be a commemorative decal with the subject of the decal and the scale(s) represented to be determined later. The motion passed.

Proposals for Amendments to the LSR Constitution

Length of Term of Directors and Directors at Large— A proposal was submitted by Paul Richardson to promote achievement of the Association Official certificate. “Revise the term of Division Directors from 2 years to 3 years, thus qualifying a Director after 1 term instead of requiring the director to serve 2 terms, when the second year of term 2 is not needed to qualify as Association Official.”

Discussion regarding the proposal suggested that it might be awkward to have eight Directors rotating on and off the Board during three-year terms. It sometimes is difficult to find a member willing to serve as director for two years. A three-year term may compound this difficulty. After discussion, the proposal was withdrawn.

Addition of Division Superintendent— A proposal was submitted by Paul Richardson to promote achievement of the Association Volunteer certificate. “Create the office of Superintendent in each division, to be filled by election by the division members. This office would manage day-to-day operation of the division, but would not be a voting member of the LSR board.”

Jim Long pointed out that Div. 8 already incorporates elected positions within the division. The positions assist with various division duties and activities. Al Boos noted that members holding such offices already could apply for credit towards a Volunteer Certificate. The position must be formally defined and have real and purposeful duties. After discussion, the proposal was withdrawn.

Restrict Candidates to Run for One Office Only— Jim Packer proposed that the following constitutional amendment be placed on the ballot next spring for consideration by the general membership.

“ARTICLE IV – Organization, Sec. 2”

(insert after the fourth paragraph)

“No member’s name may be placed on the ballot for more than one position as a Regional Officer or Director, with the exception that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined, if the candidate is willing to occupy both positions.”

Moved by Jim Howard, seconded by Bill McPherson that the proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to the general membership. The motion passed.

Addition of Education Chair & Position— Jim Packer noted that the NMRA requires an Education Chair for each region. He made the proposal that ARTICLE IV – Committees list an additional committee, which will be inserted after “Achievement”, that it be numbered 4 and that departments 4-10 be re-numbered.

“4. **Education.** Duties are:

- a) To serve as a liaison between the Lone Star Region and the NMRA, to include transmitting information to National and transmitting information to all members in the region, including, but not limited to, writing a column “Education News” in the Marker lamp.
- b) To provide the NMRA Education Director with a statistical report twice a year (January and June), to include, but not limited to, number of division clinics held in the LSR; number of division contests with total

number of entries; name and number of any youth activities held; name and number of any other NMRA education programs held.

c) Provide the NMRA education Clinics Chair with a list of subject titles, clinician names, and dates held at the LSR annual convention.”

Moved by Doyle Bond, seconded by Jim Howard that the proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to the general membership. Motion passed.

Addition of Web Page Chair & Position— Jim Packer noted that for some time the Web Page Chair has been appointed under the provisions of ARTICLE IV Committees #10. He proposed that the Constitution be amended to define the Web Page Chair as a permanent position. The amendment would be inserted after “Photography” and would be re-numbered appropriately.

“**Web Page.** Duties of this committee would be to maintain the Lone Star Region web site, updating it as necessary, and inserting pages of importance to the members of the LSR, as submitted by LSR officers, Directors, Department Chairs, and/or committee members. The Web Page Chair will insure that all material inserted on the LSR pages are appropriate and represent the highest standards of suitability.”

Moved by Doyle Bond, seconded by Bob Bray that the proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to the general membership. Motion passed.

Proposal to Place the Marker Lamp on LSR Web Page— It has been proposed that future issues of the Marker Lamp be placed on the LSR web site. The Board discussed the pros and cons. After a problem mailing the Fall 2003 issue of the Marker Lamp, that issue was placed on the LSR web site. Many LSR members accessed the LSR web site after a notice went out about its inclusion. However, some LSR members do not have access to the Internet and others prefer reading and saving a printed copy. Access to a “free” copy of the Marker Lamp may influence some NMRA members to not join the LSR. Other similar organizations post their newsletters on their web sites with good results.

Moved by Loren Neufeld, seconded by Bill McPherson that the following constitutional amendment (shown in Italics) be submitted to the general membership. Motion passed by voice vote with two opposed. “ARTICLE IV – Committees, 1.a)

a) Publication of the Marker Lamp, the official publication of the Lone Star Region, on a quarterly basis. *A complete copy of each issue will be forwarded to the Web Page Chair in a form suitable for inclusion on the Lone Star Region’s official web page when it is ready for the printer.*”

Proposal to Provide Member Directory— LSR officers received a request to provide a directory of LSR members. It was noted that, although they had been provided in past years, directories became outdated soon because of changes in membership and contact information (addresses, phone numbers, etc.). It was noted also that today there is increased awareness and concerns about privacy issues and that some members would not want to be included in a directory. No motions were proposed and no action was taken.

Consideration of Discontinuing LSR Membership Cards— Currently, the Secretary sends LSR membership cards to NMRA Life members who join the LSR. The question is whether the NMRA has a mechanism to provide annual regional-membership cards to NMRA Life members who normally would not require new NMRA membership cards. However, it was noted that, if the NMRA Long Range Plan is accepted, there might be changes in how the dues payment and membership cards are processed. No motions were made and no action was taken.

Call for Motion to Destroy Past Election Ballots— Moved by Jim Howard, seconded by Jim Long that the election ballots from the spring election be destroyed. The motion was passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought to the Board.

Comments. Closing Remarks. President Jim Packer announced that the mid-year Board meeting would be held in Fort Worth on January 15, 2005. Minutes submitted by Elbert Smith, LSR Secretary/Treasurer.

The Marker Lamp

Trustee's Report

By Jim Packer, MMR

I have just returned from the annual regular meeting of the NMRA Board of Trustees, held July 1-3 in Seattle, in conjunction with the National Convention. The most important issue addressed at the meeting was the results of the NMRA vote on the Long Range Plan and the new NMRA Regulations, replacing the Constitution and By-Laws. The issue passed by slightly more than 80%, with a 2/3 majority required. The totals were 2,221 for and 536 against, with 15.2% of the members voting. Although 15.2% seems to be a poor voter turnout, that was nearly 3 times the normal response for NMRA voting. The final vote on the standards questions were passing, but the final vote had not been tabulated by the time of the meeting.

Although the new Regulations were declared to be in force as of the start of the meeting July 1, further discussion established that there will be a somewhat lengthy transition. The new Board of Directors, replacing the Board of Trustees, will take office at the annual meeting July, 2005 in Cincinnati. Four of the present Trustee positions, including the LSR Trustee, were scheduled for election to take office March 31, 2005. Since they would never have attended a meeting before they were replaced, the terms of those four, including the LSR Trustee, were extended to 12:01 a.m. of the day of the scheduled board meeting. Six others will be replaced before the January 15, 2005 meeting and will serve for one meeting.

There will be an election for all members of the board of Directors in time for the meeting July, 2005. A Regional Advisory Council, consisting of a representative of each Region, most likely the President, will convene electronically to elect a representative of the RAC to the board. Others will be elected by NMRA

membership voting. At the first meeting of the new board, the members will draw straws to determine which three of the nine will serve a 1-year term, a 2-year term, or a 3-year term. Thereafter, 3 members will be elected each year. Members will generally be restricted to two 3-year terms, with some exceptions.

The terms of the single member, single dues, feature of the new plan will not go into effect until September 1, 2005. The NMRA Treasurer and the home office staff felt that they needed that long to put the new program into action. Between now and then, there will likely be considerable additional debate concerning the collection of all funds by the NMRA for distribution between the NMRA and the Regions. It is anticipated that the Regional Advisory Council will establish an amount to be collected by the NMRA for distribution to the Regions.

In preparation for the revised methods for collection of funds for the operation of the Region, the LSR Board of Directors will prepare a list of revisions to the current LSR Constitution to be presented to the membership on the ballot next spring. Whereas the LSR By-Laws can be modified by a vote of the Board of Directors, and those modifications have been made already, the Constitutional amendments require a vote of the members. Since the start date is September 2005, we will have ample time to make the necessary revisions.

The NMRA Board feels that the Long Range Plan is a positive step into the future of this organization. The membership has supported that position. I know that there has been opposition in the LSR, but it is time now for us to move forward and look for the positives. We can and must make this work, and I know you will all join together to help us move forward.

CEREAL TRAINS

By Tom Browning

When I was 5 or 6 years old and World War II was at its close, a cereal company had a series of locomotives and freight cars printed on the back of their boxes. I have read that with material shortages resulting from the war effort, model trains made of metal were not so easy to obtain thus there was a brief popularity of "paper" trains.

The backs of those cereal boxes were so intriguing, to me they were so real and seemed to be ready to take me to faraway places. And to me they looked just like the trains that went through the little town in which I lived. They could be cut out, folded and pasted into little models. The locomotives with tenders were, as I recall, on large boxes and freight cars and cabooses were on regular boxes of cereal. At my young age, dexterity was not a strong suit and more than one wheel or coupler was unintentionally cut off. No amount of careful gluing or taping would overcome my inability to cut cardboard well.

It was with great anticipation and artificial appetite that I anxiously waited for the cereal to be eaten. I encouraged my mother

and father to eat more cereal so I could build another car or locomotive. I really stretched my imagination trying to think of ways to empty those cereal boxes as quickly as I could. There was a family of farm workers living deep in the citrus grove behind our house that I treated to bowls of cereal. There was a little neighbor boy down the farm lane from where we lived that I tried to get to eat cereal but he was too young and had not learned how to work a spoon yet. What could I do to speed up the process?

One morning while eating my cereal for breakfast I accidentally spilled a few flakes on the floor of the kitchen. Our little rat terrier, Butch, was there in a flash to clean (eat) up the mess. Hmmmm... maybe Butch would help me out by eating the rest of the cereal in the box. So there we were on the kitchen floor, Butch eating a bowl of cereal and me cutting out a train car when my mother came into the kitchen. "Butch has his own food you know," she said.

From then on, the cereal was kept in a cabinet far out of my reach!



Cowcatcher Division 1

by Jim Howard

Summer has arrived with a bang in N. Texas. Seems like its now time to stay inside in the air conditioning and work on trains. At least that is what I keep telling my wife.

Since the last Marker Lamp issue the Cowcatchers met as planned and, in addition to a short discussion of some topical issues, were treated to Doug Watts' slide presentation of post-PRR railroading. Doug also included some great shots of BNSF equipment on the move through the far southwest.

Several Division 1 members (yours truly included) made the trip south to Houston for the Gulf Coast Express 2004 convention. If anyone left on Sunday feeling like their time was wasted they didn't see and do what I did. I found the clinics both interesting and informative; however I was not able to take in all those that I wanted to because of scheduling conflicts. The Super Layout Tour was fantastic. It was sure nice to let someone else do the driving in and around Houston while we enjoyed visiting some great layouts. How they covered the territory they did and kept to an unbelievable schedule is beyond me. The picnic and live trains at Zube Park were a real treat. I couldn't believe my luck when half way through one trip behind engineer Peter Bryant and his RS-2 he stopped the train, gave me a short briefing, and turned the throttle over to me to bring the train and passengers back into the station. What a thrill that was. Bob Bray and I are already wondering if we could get a circle in our back yards.

During the Saturday Banquet, convention Chairman Bray, presented a short briefing on plans for the "Cowtown Limited" to be held in Fort Worth June 9 through 12, 2005. The Holiday Inn North located on I-35 will be the site with room rates expected to be \$67.00. Bob intends to have a great deal more information including registration details available for the Marker Lamp winter issue.

Volume 1, No 3 of the Cowcatcher Round Up was published and, in addition to those that were mailed to Division 1 members, a copy was included in each convention registrant's packet. This special convention issue, with full-color cover page, received great reviews. Seems I keep repeating what a super job Tim Blackwell has done with what was originally intended as a simple newsletter. It remains to be seen how he tops this one. Volume 1, No. 4 has also hit the streets with picture coverage of convention happenings. Readers may notice on page 4 the Editor states that the "next Cowcatcher Division meeting is scheduled for August 15". That being a Sunday and the LMRA administration building being closed suggests it will actually be held on Saturday, August 14. Division members should make note of the schedule correction.

By the time this issue of the Marker Lamp reaches each LSR member, President Packer will have returned from the NMRA National Convention with the news that the LRP was approved. Much will have to be done before the changes it brings will be effective. In the meantime, lets all work to keep the Lone Star Region one of the best in the NMRA.



Bayou Division 2

by Jack Green

Views from a Newbee.

I say newbee only in the context of new to the LSR Convention. Sadly I must admit that little secret and state that I'm not a newbee to the hobby. So, I suspect that some sort of a Bio is in order because you folks will have to see this space filled in the months and hopefully years to come and need to know that I have just a little bit of modeling savvy.

As with anyone in this hobby that is 50+ years old, I was exposed to the sounds and smells of steam and smoke in the arms of parents and friends who met and sent off travelers by rail in the 40's and 50's. I have 4 uncles, who were engineers on various railroads, a grandfather as station agent in Grosse Tete on the T&P and the proud owner of a pre WWII Lionel set at age 4. Tinsplate Hi-rail satisfied my needs until adulthood, whereas I made the jump to scale and HO. As my eyesight and dexterity becomes a challenge, O scale and now G scale would easily fit my skill level in such intense things a re-railing wheels and laying track, but I'm staying with HO as long as I can.

The past 25 years or so has given me the pleasure of being one of the founders of the Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club in 1977 and the Midsouth Model Railroad Club in 1995. I will talk about these clubs and others in future issues. Additionally, the Midsouth is one of the co-sponsors of the biannual Louisiana Rail Run and this will be reviewed in ongoing reports as they are scheduled.

Two of my goals will be to feature LSR members and layouts in the Division as well as events and functions of these groups; such as operating sessions, open houses and show appearances. Of course, I will depend on input as to the dates and nature of these events. Please keep me informed, preferably by email at jwg3rd@aol.com.

Gary McMills has agreed to furnish write-ups on the operations at Lou Shultz's C&O in Covington as a regular operator on that system. You will be seeing his byline from time to time on the C&O as well as other things of interest within the Bayou Division. There may be occasions where the principals involved of featured layouts are not LSR members; however, the benefits of memberships would be encouraged and this may produce rewards in the future.

The Houston Convention was a delight and I am certainly looking forward to Fort. Worth in 2005. I did not arrive at the convention until Friday afternoon, which prevented me from participating in more of the functions, but I was able to operate on Bill Wright's fine layout Friday night before it becomes history. Bill is a continuing member of our Louisiana Rail Run, thanks Bill. Saturday, I chose to take the Super Tour and was not disappointed. Why drive in Houston? I never get tired of looking at layouts. One of my smartest buys was a 4 mp digital camera with a large smart card. It is very rewarding to look at all the layouts over and over on a slide show months after the event with zero film cost or processing. Thanks to all of the layout members and especially

Dave Shafer for his tour planning and narratives. The contest was filled with some very exciting models and other related items. I entered a Push Boat that did not place; however, I received some nice complements on the workmanship. The Banquet food was excellent and this really surprised me as most everyone expects rubber chicken and this definitely was not. Mr. Getz was a delight and almost made me forget that I had been in a seat or chair for the most part of 10 hours that day. The "We Love You's and Thank You's" were kept to the minimum and did not go on forever and forever, as most anyone's caboose that has endured the things will attest to. By far, the most rewarding aspect of any function of this type is the interaction with the people who attend and the people who do all the work. A special pat on the back to Don Bozman and his entire crew, it was fun!

My heartfelt thanks to Mavin Ackermann, my predecessor, for his 14 years of service to the Bayou Division. Marvin will still be active in the Division, but has a challenge as President of the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie (New Orleans) as they move into the exciting world of DCC and other new areas.

Finally, I want to thank all the members who voted for me and put you on notice now. Get ready to talk about yourself and the hobby for future articles. Earlier this year, I mailed you a data sheet to fill out. Please fill it out and mail it back to me so I can keep a somewhat basic file on the members within the Bayou Division.



North East Texas Division 3

by Bill McPherson

A bunch of North East Texas members enjoyed the fantastic convention in Houston in June. There was much more to do than there were hours available. Don Bozman and his associates really did a bang-up job in putting this all together. As always, one of the best parts of our LSR conventions is being able to spend time with long-time friends whom we see only once a year.

We are extraordinarily proud of our own David Davis who won award after award in the LSR model contests. He then topped it all off by winning the Best of Show award for his On3 model of an unusual car called a 2 board-5 door block car. This car was used for hauling short cut-off pieces (or blocks) at a lumber saw mill. This model won 1st place in the Freight Car category. David also won awards for his Santa Fe tool car, ICC yard office, and railroad pass.

Duane Richardson won first place in the Bridge and Trestle category for an excellent model of a Colorado Springs trestle. Not to be outdone by his son, Paul Richardson won 1st place in the Passenger Car category for his Purgatory & Devil River Vista Verde car.

Back home, we have some members making outstanding progress on achievement awards. Jerry Hoverson recently received the following: Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Structures, Scenery, and Chief Dispatcher. He is rapidly closing in on Author, and is making good progress on the last one he needs, Master Builder – Cars. Jerry should be the next Master Model Railroader in the LSR. His dual-level HO, HOn3 layout features beautiful scenery and many scratch-built structures equal to the numerous Fine Scale Miniatures kits he has super detailed. Closed circuit

TV's assist his engineers during operating sessions to monitor the hidden storage areas. Keep up that head of steam Jerry!

More layouts are being built nowadays in air conditioned areas of homes or other facilities. Thus the long hot days of Texas summers may encourage working on the layout instead of burning up outdoors. In Division 3 many of us will be taking that route. See you down the tracks next time.



Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bob Olson, Jr.

Summer is moving right along and the heat is up. That's a prescription for modeling if you ask me. I'm pretty fired up after attending both the LSR convention in Houston and the NMRA convention in Seattle, Washington. The Houston group, headed by Don Bozman and Loren Neufeld did a fantastic job as usual. The venue of clinics was remarkable and the contests entries were outstanding too. I've been inspired by the contest room this convention. You can read about the fruit of my excitement in a little bit. We are going to have a division meeting where we can all learn to scratchbuilt contest/achievement program quality models. One other thing that was a big time was when **Dick Schneider** and I chased the Challenger that was in that week. It seemed that every one on Alameda Road had it out for us. She rolled by our picture purch and then we tried to keep up. Just too much traffic, so we just grabbed a bite of lunch and went back to our spot for the return to town. It was wonderful! Three weeks later, many LSR members went to Seattle for the National convention. I ran with fellow Div. 4 member **Kennedy Gauger** and spoke to several other division friends **Rod Reames** and **Mike Barrett**. Mike was busy during the convention presenting his trestle clinics. I failed to mention that at the LSR, he did a hands on extra fare clinic on trestle building. It was incredible. The goods that I took home were worth the cost of the clinic. If you have never been to a nation convention, you really should go next year to Cincinnati. My favorite part of the NMRA convention is the enormous train show at the end. If it is made you probably can find it there. There are manufacturers, dealers and layouts galore.

There will be a train show in Temple, September 18 and 19 as well as the Austin Jamboree the end of October. Consult the "Up Track" section for exact dates and times.

The division meet that I mentioned will feature a clinic on scratchbuilding contest/achievement program quality models and will be presented by our very own **Chuck Lind** with assistance from **Tracy Mitchell**. We are in for a treat. Learning from such talented men will be worth the time that you will give to come. We will meet in Austin on Nov. 13 from 10:30 AM to 2:30PM?? The place is not completely arranged so I'll have to put that in my next report and hope it gets to you in time or you can write it on your calendar and then call me at 254-857-3906 sometime before the meeting and I'll give you the final details. Let's use this clinic to motivate us to enter a model in next year's LSR convention in Fort Worth.

Well, that's all for now. I believe Winnie the Pooh put it "ta ta for now" or TTFN! Happy modeling!



Division 5

by Ronald Kutch

No report received



Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Hello from the hot and humid piney woods of Northwest Louisiana.

Not very much to report from this area. I don't know about everyone else who attended this year LSR Regional Convention, but speaking for myself, I had a great time. We are still talking about the quality of layouts that we saw, let alone the quantity (7 narrow gauge, 5 scales and covering 240 miles in 10 hours) unbelievable is the word that keeps coming to this writer's mind. Charles took a couple hours of video (DVD) and has shown this to a couple of locals (possibly future LSR members) and they are all in agreement, WOW!!!!

I wish to thank, on behalf of the Division and Members who attended, the Houston Area LSR members for a GREAT Convention. A good time was had by all.

Otherwise not much is going on in this neck of the woods. The Ark-La-Tex crew just finished the two (2) week show at the Shriners Hospital...what a gratifying experience....to see such appreciation of one's hobby and how it brings smiles to the little faces! I guess that is why we keep doing it each year—also it doesn't hurt that the place is air-conditioned, free coffee supplied and running trains—one of the members got up to 150+ cars on one train!! I know we will be back next year.

The KCS Historical Society has started back to work on the "Holiday Express". We are adding some more buildings, autos and animation. You would not believe how hot an "insulated" box car can get...last week I took a thermometer with me to see, and I regret I did, we have suspended the evening work secessions until the fall owing to the "hot" work area!!! But we are adding a ski lift, skating ring, airport buildings, churches, houses, various MofW buildings, and who knows what else!!

Well that is it from this corner of the LSR, I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.



Texas Gulf Division 8

by Jim Long, MMR

No report Received



Division 6

by Doyle Bond, MMR

This is my first report as your new Division 6 Director. The LSR Convention in Houston was great. Great clinics, layouts, food, friendship, and tours. The only downside was our iron-fisted dictator (President Jim Packer) kept the board locked-up with no food, little water, and two short restroom breaks from 9:45 am until 2:00 pm. There was lot on the agenda and we did make it thru the whole list.

The Division currently has only 76 members that are both NMRA and LSR. I plan to work to increase the membership. I will be at the New Braunfels Summer Show on August 21 and the AMRE Fall Show on October 2 and 3. In the future I hope to help organize some NMRA modeling contests in connection with the local train shows.

The LSR web site for Division 6 is out-of-date. The list of Model Railroad Clubs and the list of Hobby Shops was last updated on September 27, 2001. I would appreciate your review of these lists and send me, by mail or e-mail, deletions, corrections, and additions to the lists. I will pass these on to the LSR Web Site Chair. I also would like you to notify me about local events, such as train shows, jamborees, fund raising so I can plan to attend. I want meet, greet, and recruit through-out the Division.

The next LSR convention will be in Fort Worth. The 2006 Convention will held in San Antonio. SAMRA will be the host and they are already searching for a site. The San Antonio people always present a great agenda. I believe LSR conventions offer the best value. The Houston convention cost \$55 and that included most of the activities and the banquet and breakfast food. Try a convention-I think you will like it.

The June issue of Scale Rails included a picture, on page 50, of a locomotive that is currently on display at the New Braunfels Railroad Museum. The Museum has on display at the depot a caboose, in addition the locomotive. Next time you in the area visit the Museum. They have many items for the docents to explain. Another Museum that I found interesting is a little outside Division 6, but worth the visit. It is in Odessa and is a private museum. Tours are by appointment. Officially the name is Texon Santa Fe Railroad Depot Museum. The depot has been beautifully restored and has many authentic items inside. There is also a caboose and 300 foot of track for the two-person hand car. To make an appointment call: 432-553-2267.

Application forms for LSR and NMRA membership can be found on the LSR web site. Let's try to get all model railroaders informed and interested in joining.

Education News

By John Hawkins, LSR Education Chairman

I was recently appointed to replace Elbert Smith as LSR Education Chair in an attempt to lighten Elbert's workload since he took over the duties of LSR Secretary and Treasurer. I know we all appreciate the work Elbert did as Education Chair, and we offer a division-wide thanks to him!

I'm still trying to sort through all the information that I received from Elbert and from Jan Wescott, the head of NMRA Education Department, in hopes of ultimately figuring out just what is expected of me in this position. One thing I have determined is that I am to write an education-related column for each issue of the Marker Lamp. Well, guess what? Here is my first column.

I can imagine your reaction to this column – ho hum – what could possibly be interesting about education issues within the NMRA. And, I can also imagine that your first reaction is to stop reading right now. But, wait! Hold on. I am taking it as a personal challenge to not only write this column each time but to make it so interesting that you will not be able to put it down. I hope you will indeed read on and see if I am the least bit successful.

The NMRA Education Department is currently made up of five major areas:

- The Achievement Program
- Contest Program
- Modeling With The Masters (MWTM)
- Junior College Program (JCP)
- Education Clinics Program

This is the same Achievement Program that you are familiar with and the Contest Program is the model contest at the national convention; so, there is nothing new there. Modeling With The Masters and the Junior College Program are pretty much self explanatory. Education Clinics is a catchy name for a project to make clinics presented at the national convention available to the regions and similar kinds of things. In short, the Education Department intends to use these traditional membership activities

as tools to have a positive impact on membership retention and to foster new members. My job as the Region's Education Chair is to act as the key communication link between the NMRA Education Department and you, the regional membership. In that capacity, I hope to bring you interesting news, facts, and other useful information about happenings in these areas.

Speaking of interesting information, here are some excerpts of statistical data that was included in Jan Wescott's annual report to the Board of Trustees (BOT). Pat Harriman, NMRA AP Chair, provided her with the original statistics. In the preceding 12 months ending with April 2004, a total of 215 achievement awards (that count toward MMR) were earned overall. Only nine of those were from LSR. The Mid-East Region earned a total of 37 such awards, to lead the pack. Since I don't have the regional population distribution in front of me, I can't really draw any conclusions, but only nine awards doesn't seem like very many. Surely, we can do better in the future. In total, over that period, 304 achievement awards were earned. The award earned in the greatest number was the Golden Spike Award, with a total of 76 awarded. The most often awarded certificate that counts toward MMR was Association Volunteer, with a total of 53 awarded. Only two awards were issued for Motive Power, while six were issued for Prototype Modeler. This seems to confirm my suspicions that Motive Power and Prototype Modeling are the hardest of all to achieve. Incidentally, there were 13 Master Model Railroad awards received. The most achievement awards were issued in the month of April (40) and the fewest were awarded in month of September (6), again confirming my suspicion that, like me, most people work on their model railroads during the winter months.

Next time, as I grow more familiar with the Education Department activities and my exact duties, I plan to delve deeper into what the department is doing in the areas listed above and try to explain how each of the processes affects each one of us. Thanks for sticking with me on this.

Thanks Houston

Congratulations to Don Bozman and his co-chairman, Loran Neufeld and all members who chaired all the events that were planned and executed for all attending the LSR 2004 Gulf Coast Express convention. It was another job well done.

Congratulations to Bettye Bozman and her co-chair, Judith Neufeld and those members who held the interesting clinics and other events for the ladies attending the convention. The 1950s Style Show was different, but was enjoyed by all who attended and was described by Ellen Ackerman.

The arts and crafts entrees were very good, but really need more entries from the ladies who are in attendance. So, ladies, think positive and get your favorite craft ready for entry in the contest at the coming convention in 2005. The categories are as follows: railroadiana or general (which can be needlework of all kinds, crocheting, knitting, painting, etc.) The Buffet Banquet was a "First" for the LSR and proved to be a success.

Following the banquet we had the privilege of listening to The Marker Lamp

Charlie Getz. While he was speaking a remark came from the audience, now and then from Diane Tolley and her father, Ken Caulkings. They were recognized by Charlie and brought applause from all.

I, Rosella Nash enjoyed the convention and it was great visiting with long-time friends and of course meeting the many new friends. I know everyone enjoyed the convention and is making now looking forward to the 2005 convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Remember, Model railroading is fun!"

By: Rosella M. Nash
Raton, New Mexico

Editor's Note:

For those of you that considered the trip to Houston for the convention too far, too crowded, too difficult.....Rosella (widow of Ivan past LSR president) ventured from Raton, New Mexico on a Greyhound Bus to attend the convention.

Thanks, Rosella, for keeping us a part of your life!

The Contests at the GULF COAST EXPRESS!

Great participation and quality in the Contests this year! Fifty-five models were entered, along with thirty-one Photos, five Stamp entries, four Passes and twenty-one Arts & Crafts. And in the new TableTop Modules contest we had 6 entries. My thanks to all the volunteers who helped keep the contest room running and to all the judges for their hard work and long hours Friday night. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to everyone who brought an entry. You're the ones who make the contests an exciting part of every convention. I hope to see you all in Fort Worth next year with more great models!

And this year's winners are:

Models

Steam Locomotives

1. William Hemmeter – DRGW K28 #473
2. Russell Straw – T&NO 2-10-2 #976

Diesel Engines

1. Ronnie Pendleton – MKT GP40 #176
2. Ray Byer – Cotton Belt FT (ABBA)
3. John Chilstrom – Western Maryland F7A

Traction & Other Motive Power

1. Chuck Lind – Work speeder
2. Jim Barron – RGS No. 1

Passenger Cars

1. Paul Richardson – Purgatory & Devil River Vista Verde
2. Steve Sandifer – ATSF D947
3. Steve Sandifer – ATSF 2313

Freight Cars

1. David Davis – 2 Board 5 Door Block Car
2. Jim Barron – HHT Co. Water Car
3. Bob White – 24' South Pacific Coast Boxcar

Maintenance of Way

1. Byron Spampinato – Shop Crane On30
2. David Davis – ATSF Tool Car

Cabooses

1. Bob White – RGS 0404
2. Steve Sandifer – ATSF 734
3. Steve Sandifer – ATSF 791

Complete Trains

1. Rich Schiffman – Logging Gypsy & Log Car
2. Bob White – Logging Train
3. Russell Straw – Texas Special Train

Off-Line Structures

1. David Davis – Santa Fe Tugboat
2. Bob White – Abandon Saloon
3. Jim Packer – Hillary's Hamburger Haven

On-Line Structures

1. Denny Bullard – Continental Oil Warehouse
2. David Davis – ICC Yard Office
3. Charlie Spangler – Horseshoe Meadow Depot

Bridges & Trestles

1. Duane Richardson – Colorado Springs Trestle
2. Byron Spampinato – Gully Bridge
3. Jon Pitre – Old Trestle Bridge

Displays

1. Brian Block – Sawtooth Timber Co. Sawmill
2. Gary Maitland – Tin Lizzie Alley
3. Jim Packer – Argo Gold Mill

Photos

Model Photographs, B & W Prints

1. Jim Barron – Gator & Friend

Model Photographs, Color Prints

1. David Currey – Sunset at West Yard (C&IG)
2. Jack Green – Push Boat & Barge
3. Jack Green – Mid South at Alexandria

Model Photographs, Slides

1. Chuck Lind – Taking a Break at the Sawmill
2. Chuck Lind – At the Pond

Prototype Photos – B & W Prints

1. Steve Sandifer – Watchin' the Gauges
2. Steve Sandifer – The Agent
3. Steve Sandifer – Tower 87 (1979)

Prototype Photos – Color Prints

1. Greg Johnson – Still Waggin' After All These Years
2. Greg Johnson – Time Warp on the Rutland
3. Tom Marsh – Daylight E

Prototype Photos, Slides

1. Steve Sandifer – 473 Heading Home
2. Steve Sandifer – Chama After Dark
3. Steve Sandifer – Durango At Rest

Trains on Stamps

1. Janet Pitre – 6 Cent Locomotive 1st Day
2. Ray Byer – Choctaw Rocket
3. Jon Pitre – McQueens Jupiter

Passes

1. Jon Pitre – Poore Railroad
2. David Davis – DTS Pass #222
3. John Chilstrom – Western Maryland Fast Freight

Arts & Crafts

Arts & Crafts, Railroadiana

1. Janet Pitre – Go By Train Cross Stitch
2. Joan Garrett – Beaded Needlework Engine
3. Ginny Boos – Christmas Tree Skirt

Arts & Crafts, General

1. Fredda McPherson – Redbird Handpainted Plate
2. Ginny Boos – Moneyholder Tree
3. Barbara Smith – Autumn Breeze
4. Janet Pitre – All Occasion Cards

Arts & Crafts, Theme

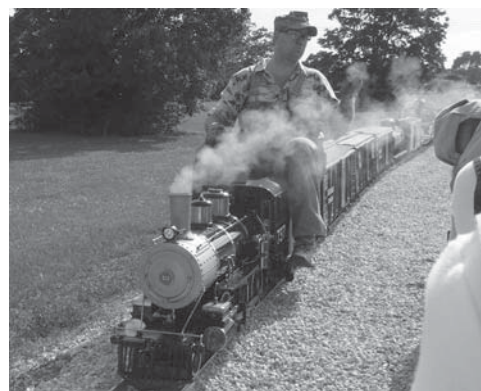
1. Cecilia Ladd – Quilted Flag Wall Hanging
2. Charlene Threlkeld – Shoulder Bags with Touch of Old Glory
3. Charlene Threlkeld – Shopping Bag with Flag

Most Popular Arts & Crafts

Patricia Willis – King Size Bedroom Ensemble

Arts & Crafts Best of Show

Fredda McPherson – Redbird Handpainted Plate



Steam was running at Zube Park for the LSR Housaton Convention

Photo by
Jim Packer

TableTop Modules

HO & On30 Scales

1. Tracy Mitchell – Tres Noches Town (On30)
2. Chuck Lind – Logging Reload

N & On18 Scales

1. Kelly Russell – Fireworks Stand
2. Chuck Lind - Logging
3. Terry Mitchell – On18 Car Barn

Most Popular TableTop Module

Tracy Mitchell – Tres Noches Town (On30)

Participation Award

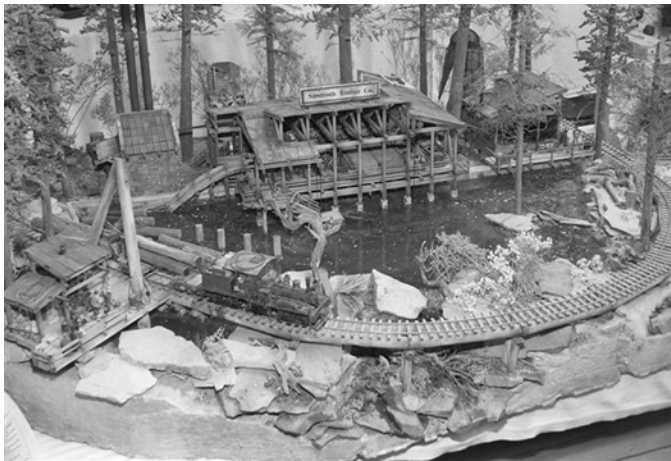
Steve Sandifer – Seven Entries totaling 534 Points

Best Kit-Built Model

Gary Maitland – Tin Lizzie Alley

Architectural Award

Gary Maitland – Tin Lizzie Alley



Tree Award *Photo by Doug Jackson*

Brian Block – Sawtooth Timber Co. Sawmill

Bob Clarke Award

Brian Block – Sawtooth Timber Co. Sawmill

Most Popular Model

Brian Block – Sawtooth Timber Co. Sawmill

Best of Show

David Davis – Two-Board Five-Door Block Car



*Photo by
Doug
Jackson*



*David Davis receiving his Best In Show award from Loren and the beautiful
2 board 5 door West Side Lumber Company Block car that won the award*

The Marker Lamp

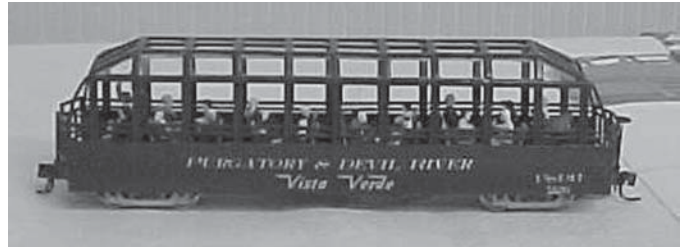
Linda S. Little Award

Reba Doughty – McCormas Dry Goods

Novice Best of Show – (Tie)



William Hemmeter – DRGW K28 #473



Paul Richardson – Purgatory & Devil River Vista Verde



Table Track Modules

*This was a new category for the contest this year. The N Scale winner Fireworks
Stand is shown above and was done by Kelly Russell*

The HO/On30 Tres Noches Town was done by Tracy Mitchell and is shown below



Did anyone catch the name of the drive in they came from?



Photo by Doug Jackson

Company Store

Cars that are available:

	HO	N-Scale
Casey Lines	\$7.00	\$10.00
Crescent City Lines	\$7.00	\$10.00
Texas & African	\$7.00	\$10.00
Waco Austin & Bryan	\$7.00	\$10.00
Anniversary Car 1951	\$12.00	per set \$42.50
Anniversary Cars 2001	OUT	per set \$42.50
ITC	\$13.00	per set \$42.50
John Lott	\$16.00	\$16.00
Quin Lines	\$16.00	

Please add \$4.00 for shipping

Check your layout and be sure you have one of each *special run* Region car. If not we can take care of the shortage post haste.

Eunice Linda, Dispatcher
3028 Cumberland
Waco, TX 76707-1219
254-754-5535
E-mail: jilinda@hotmail.com

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The 2004 LSR convention had the best participation in several years. This was due to contested races. Let's continue to involve more participation in the election process.

The LSR will need to fill the following positions for 2005: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Directors from Divisions 1, 3, 5, and 7. Requirements to run: LSR membership for one year prior to taking office and attendance at Board of Directors' meetings or written proxy.

Nominations must be received no later than March 1, 2005. Bio information sheets are available on the LSR website, or by mail from John c. Linda, Chairman, LSR Nominating committee, 3028 Cumberland Avenue, Waco, TX 76707.

Up the Track

By John Hawkins

Please send any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area to me via email at je.hawkins@comcast.net or via USPS to 1723 Shufords Court, Lewisville, TX 75067. I prefer to receive such information via e-mail, but I will accept it any way you want to send it. Now, here are some upcoming events. I would like to thank the *Convcatcher Round Up* for several of the listings.

Houston, Texas Houston Area Live Steamers

Located in Zube Park on US 290 northwest of Houston. Open to the public every 3rd Saturday March through November from 10:00AM to 4:00 PM. Train rides are free. For LSR members, call or E-mail anytime for other special dates that you can attend. Contact Peter Bryan peterb@pdq.net or 713-939-8002

Dallas, Texas Third Annual Whistle Fair

Saturday, July 24, Sunday July 25 Dallas Age of Steam (Fair Park) Tour the 1914 Parlor Car, 1937 Dining Car, and 1910 First Class Sleeping Car Adults \$6, Children \$3 214-428-0101

San Antonio, Texas

2nd Annual Crossroads Family Train Show

San Antonio Model Railroad Association Saturday, August 7, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Sunday, August 8, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM For information call Paul Lawler at 210-647-4306

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Mid-South Railroad Club Open House

11931 Richcroft Avenue, Suite D Request \$3 donation

New Braunfels, Texas

New Braunfels Summer Train Show

Saturday, August 21, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Sunday, August 22 -???
New Braunfels Civic Center Adults \$5, 17 and under \$1

Cany, Oklahoma Southwestern Live Steam Meet

September 17-19 Contact Earl Bean – bean2284@cox.net

Temple, Texas

CENTRA-MOD Model Train Show

Date: September 18-19, 2004 Frank Mayborn Convention Center Adults: \$5.00; Senior Citizens and Military with ID: \$1.00 Discount Children 12 and under: Free with adult Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Contact: William C. Lancaster 318 North 10th, Temple, TX 76501 Phone (254-771-0760

Live Oak, Texas

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers, 16th Annual Train Show

Date: 2nd and 3rd of October 2004 Live Oak Civic Center

8101 Pat Booker Road Live Oak, TX 78233

Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Admission: \$6 individual; \$9 family Additional information may be obtained from Harold Fleischer, 11731 Wetmore Road, San Antonio, TX 78247, Phone: 210-497-2532, email: amreshow@swbell.net.

Terrell, Texas Southwestern Live Steam Meet

October 8-10 Contact Earl Bean – bean2284@cox.net

Fort Worth Texas

LMRA Railroad Activity's 22nd Annual Railroad Show

Date: October 9-10, 2005 Lockheed Martin Recreation Area

3400 Bryant Irvin Road Fort Worth, TX 76109

Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Admission \$6.00, Children under 10 free with adult

Contact Bob Bray at LMRA or e-mail to robert.l.bray@lmco.com.

Kay, Texas Southwestern Live Steam Meet

November 12-14 Contact Earl Bean – bean2284@cox.net

Fort Worth, Texas

Fort Worth Holiday Train Show

Date: November 13-14, 2004 Amon Carter Exhibits Building at the Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 West Lancaster, Fort Worth, TX. 76107. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Admission charge \$7.00 per person, children 10 and under free. Additional information maybe obtained from Robert Bray, 1820 Spruce Lane, Benbrook, TX 76126, 817-249-4965 (6-10 pm CST) or e-mail to robert.l.bray@lmco.com.

Plano, Texas

Dallas Area Train Show

Date: Jan 15-16, 2005 Plano Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75074 (Southwest corner of Spring Creek Parkway and Jupiter Road) Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Admission charge \$7.00 per person, children 10 and under free. Additional information maybe obtained from Robert Bray, 1820 Spruce Lane, Benbrook, TX 76126, 817-249-4965 (6-10 pm CST) or e-mail to robert.l.bray@lmco.com.

Treasure of the Past

By Carl C. Lester

I have seen more than most, from the tragic deaths of war to the miracle of life, walked on the wind-blown sands of time in Egypt, marveled at the remaining buildings of the first seat of democracy, set upon seats of stone in a coliseum where Christians died for a faith. Now I was about to experience a creature of the past, a dinosaur, come to life.

The anticipation of what was to come, not knowing what to expect, never having seen anything quite of this magnitude made me wonder what was I about to experience. I had heard stories and seen pictures of these steel beasts but had never experienced their mystique first hand.

The first indication of the impending approach of the creature was a slight vibration of the twin silver ribbons racing from horizon to horizon. A low rumble could be heard and a dim brightness could be seen in the distance. As this apparition grew larger, the crescendo of sound and sight increased until the din was unbelievable. Never had I seen anything as spectacular as this beast out of the past bearing down upon me. It was as if someone had turned the pages of history back and the 1930's were rushing at me with all its glory. All at once, the creature was here; it had a shrill whistle voice, made its own thunder and smoke and created its own blast of wind as it rushed past. Never had I seen anything that struck me with such awe as this rare mechanical creature. It was simply marvelous, that one of these behemoths of steel, steam and coal, still lived and breathed. It was a site to behold..

As I stood and watched the dinosaur from the past steam out of sight, its mournful cry off in the distance, was lamenting a time long past, when these metal beasts were too numerous to count. Its voice was searching for all its comrades who were nowhere to be found. It was a lonely sound. As I watched and listened to the past recede out of sight, I pondered what our generation will have lost when these coal-eating, smoke breathing, steam generating dinosaurs become just a glorious memory of the past.



Charlie Getz was the guest speaker and kept everyone very entertained and close to tears with laughter with his comments about the NMRA.

Photo by Doug Jackson

The Marker Lamp

Hobby Shop Corner

By Carl Lester, Owner Lester's Boxcar Works

The "NEW" HO, HO_{n3}, O, On30, and N scale models listed below have been released or are due to be released soon. Check your local hobby shop or model train store to get a look at these outstanding models.

ATLAS: HO Scale: <http://www.atlasrr.com/>

Atlas released their HO Scale Ballast Cars (second run). Numerous road names are available..

ATLAS: N SCALE: <http://www.atlasrr.com/>

Check the Atlas web site for locomotives and rolling stock release dates:

LIFE-LIKE HERITAGE:

Life-Like will be releasing a New **Heritage 2-8-8-2 locomotive** (with dual front mounted air pumps) in December 2004. The new locos will have "**Sound and be DCC equipped**" also the loco will be released **without sound or decoder**. Check your local hobby shop or model train store for prices and availability.

LIFE-LIKE P2K P1K;

Life-Like will be releasing in December 2004 the following locomotives: **P2K GP28-2 w/88"nose:** BNSF, L&N, NS, P&LE, RI, SEABOARD, SOO, CLINCHFIELD, **UNDECKED P1K RS1:** B&M, D&H, MONON, NH, EL, RI, SOO, UNDECKED

Check your local hobby shop for prices and availability.

BACHMANN SPECTRUM SERIES HO, On30: <http://www.bachmanntrains.com/>

Bachmann has released their ON30 Climax locomotive. Check their web site for the pictures. They also released the G scale Gas Mechanical locomotive check your local G Scale dealer for availability and prices for both locomotives.

Bachmann is very mum about the future release of the HO Climax locomotive and the Gas Mechanical locomotive. The story I was told about the release was sometime near Christmas but they would not say which year.

BROADWAY LIMITED: <http://www.broadway-limited.com/index.html>

Check the BWL web site for the new release dates for their locomotives. Also check the web site for the future locomotive models that are to be produced...

ATSF 4-8-4's have been released. Check your local hobby shop or model train store to get a look at these outstanding models.

I thought the locomotives looked great, operated well and has very good sound, but as I was informed by a true ATSF rivet counter that the locomotives are close but do have a few errors...check them out they are worth a look.

EMD NW2/SW7: due mid 2004: the word from BWL as to the paint scheme on the SP units, no one seem to know even though the Switchers are in the paint shop as we speak.....Bloody Nose scheme????

There are too many "new" models to list them all, so a trip to your local "train Store" or favorite "hobby shop" should be on your list of important things to do. Take a friend with you to the local Hobby Shop, the trip could produce a new model railroader with which you can share this great hobby. So long for now, until next time.

Carl

The Cow-Catcher

It Scatters the Bull Over Texas

VOL. 1 NO. 1

MAY 1951

LSR Meeting Sets Record

'FORT WORTH BY FALL' IS REGION'S NEXT GOAL

"Fort Worth by fall" is the slogan of Lone Star NMRA members who are already looking forward to the next Regional meeting.

Fort Worth, a western railroad center, offers a panorama of railroad activity, both model and prototype. Between the T&P hump yard and CTC board, and the ATSF installations, the Ft. Worth boys could offer an interesting fan trip and not even have to leave the city limits. The Texas Railroaders, a Dallas fan club, made such a trip to Ft. Worth not too long ago and everyone that went over really had a big time.

C.W. Smith, enthusiastic cowtown railroader, says Fort Worth is already making plans to invite the region to hold its next meeting there. Smith has the backing of such able model railroaders as C.B. Baird, Bill Griffin, Jack and Bill Shepperd, Skeeter Blacklock, Bob McMahon, Dick Mouricel, and O.S. Lattimore. The Dallas gang have offered their support and since they are geographically close should come through with any assistance that Smitty needs.

Smitty travels all over the state in his work and should be able to do more to promote the region than almost any other member. He has a wide acquaintance with the modelers over the state and has visited with quite a few of them. This certainly puts him in a good position to insure that our next meeting will be a huge success.

"Every Member
Get A Member"

NMRA's brand new baby, the less-than-a-year-old Lone Star Region, is off to a record-breaking start.

Attendance at the first regional meeting set a new high for the NMRA. Office Manager Bob Best reported this week, in a flash prepared for distribution with the latest NMRA bulletin, which had already gone to press, the office manager said:

"The Lone Star Region, which was chartered by the Milwaukee convention, held its organization meeting in Dallas, Texas, April 15, with a very enthusiastic attendance. The registration figures show 116 NMRA members and 51 guests present with 55 new NMRA members and 12 renewals being signed up on the spot.

"While records are not available, the office manager believes this to be a record, not only for an organization meeting but for any regular meeting.

"The social angle was featured by open houses at various home layouts and bus service was provided to handle transportation to and from the various places. A breakfast (at the Baker Hotel) was attended by 150 persons, and one member reported 120 persons attended the open house at his own layout.

"The business meeting was highlighted by a talk by John Page, Model Railroader editor, and the selection of an executive committee to draw up a constitution and select a slate of candidates to be voted upon by mail ballot. . . .

"We wish to congratulate the Lone Star Region and its organizers for a fine job well done."

SUGGESTED EMBLEM



Roy Thomas, your executive committee member from Abilene, has submitted this design as a suggestion for our regional emblem. We are publishing it only with the thought that some of the other members might have some suggested designs of their own that they would like to present.

By Tim Blackwell

Like many model railroaders, I've always had an interest in history. I'm really not a prototypical modeler, and admittedly far, far from a Tony Koester.

But I'm fascinated by the past and probably a little naive in my assumptions that a few decades ago life had to be simpler. Certainly, there was no rush-hour traffic that numbered cars in the thousands. And you know that folks back then didn't have to remember so darned many passwords.

Maybe I watch too much *Andy Griffith*.

While at the Lone Star Region convention in Houston last month, David Davis piqued my interest in history with 10 copies of the LSR's official newsletter, *The Cow-Catcher*, from the early '50s.

Davis, who hales from Division 3, was given these precious gems a few years ago, and he no longer wanted them collecting dust in his Carrollton home. He handed them off outside the contest room, and I carefully stowed them away for another time to read.

I spent the ride back from Houston poring through these history lessons of the LSR's attempts to stand on young, wobbly legs. I thought I'd hit the lottery when I discovered that in this stack of yellowing paper was Volume 1, Number 1. *The first issue!*

The preamble to what would someday become *The Marker Lamp* was a four-page, black-and-white digest that made the promise to be "published every now and then."

It seemed so innocent and devoid of strife.

The Cow-Catcher debuted in May 1951 under co-editors Terry Walsh, F.C. Peterson, Bill McClanahan and Cliff Robinson. It was nothing fancy, but give these men credit. They had been

publishing a newsletter under the same name in the Dallas/Fort Worth area prior to offering it as LSR's official publication, according to LSR Historian Jim Long. *The Cow-Catcher* was informative and factual and favored a newspaper-like layout. McClanahan, a newspaper cartoonist by trade, probably put the words into columns.

Bill Gates hadn't even dreamed up Microsoft Word back then, so these editors spent their Sundays hammering out every syllable on a typewriter, probably in a cramped office or on a dining room table.

The first issue, touting that "It Scatters The Bull Over Texas," was not unlike your *Cowcatcher Round Up* in content. Maybe a little heavier on the bull.

There were stories about the upcoming LSR convention and the latest meeting, plus notes on area modelers and information about clubs and shows in the state. McClanahan even offered a cartoon.

"Our name, *The Cow-Catcher*, was chosen because it captures the flavor of the Lone Star Region and at the same time smacks of railroading," the editors wrote in the inaugural issue.

The LSR was chartered in 1951, just prior to the new *Cow-Catcher*, and enjoyed high interest from the beginning. At its organizational gathering in Dallas in April 1951, the LSR set a National Model Railroad Association record for meeting attendance —116 NMRA members and 51 guests. The *Cow-Catcher* reported that 35 new members signed up on the spot.

By the end of 1951, the hyphen in the name was gone and 6-8 pages were regularly published in *The Cowcatcher*. The fall issue featured one of McClanahan's cartoons on the cover — in four-color. The January 1952 issue was 10 pages, and the May edition boasted that *The Cowcatcher* published 12 times in its first year, markedly more than every now and then.

Around 1953, it gave way to the *Marker Lamp*.

Life in the LSR and NMRA wasn't all that different from today, with the exception that the members seemed to be more interest in the organization. And, yes, there were issues.

The May 1952 edition boasted that the NMRA's new dues proposal, going from \$2 to \$3 per year, was stirring up a "storm."

The idea had all the markings of today's Long Range Plan, and one of the issues was the NMRA's proposed one-membership-fee structure for national and regional dues. LSR officials then, like they have lately, feared that not enough money would filter down from the national office to keep the local fires burning.

This was enough to evoke some true Texas spirit when LSR member O.S. Lattimore said, "Let 'em go ahead and raise their dues. Let 'em use our money for the benefit of other regions. I move we secede and set up the National Model Railroad Association of Texas!"

Some things never change, bull included!

Tim Blackwell is editor of the Cowcatcher Round Up, published for the Cowcatcher Division of the Lone Star Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

Pike Ads

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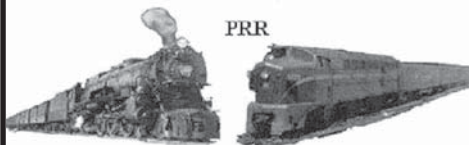
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